

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARIES OF THE  
MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT  
CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF  
DEFENSE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES  
OF DEFENSE  
GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL  
TEST AND EVALUATION

ASSISTANTS TO THE  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR OF  
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTORS OF THE  
DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: DoD High Level Architecture (HLA) for  
Simulations

References: (a) DoD Directive 5000.59, "DoD Modeling  
and Simulation (M&S)

Management," January 4, 1994

(b) DoD 5000.59-P, "DoD Modeling and  
Simulation Master Plan  
(MSMP)," October 1995

Under the authority of reference (a), and as prescribed  
by reference (b), I designate the  
High Level Architecture as the standard technical architecture  
for all DoD simulations.

The baseline HLA is defined by three inter-related elements: HLA Rules Version 1.0 (v.1.0), HLA Interface Specification v.1.0, and HLA Object Model Template v.1.0. The evolution of the HLA will be managed by the DoD Executive Council for Modeling and Simulation (EXCIMS) through its Architecture Management Group (AMG). This structure provides a means for the DoD Components to identify and address any emergent issues in subsequent refinements to the HLA. Compliance with the HLA does not mandate the use of any particular implementation of supporting software such as the Runtime Infrastructure.

DoD Components shall review all of their simulation projects and programs by the second quarter fiscal year (FY) 1997 in order to establish plans for near-term compliance with the HLA. The Department shall cease further development or modification of all simulations which have not achieved, or are not in the process of achieving, HLA-compliance by the first day of FY 1999, and shall retire any non-compliant simulations by the first day of FY 2001.

EXCIMS is to monitor progress and advise me if any emergent events affect their viability.

To monitor compliance with the HLA, the DoD Components shall submit an initial report to the Defense Modeling and Simulation Office (DMSO) by June 30, 1997, which summarizes their HLA-compliance intentions for each simulation the Component owns or sponsors, organized into three categories:

- HLA-compliance actions initiated immediately
- HLA-compliance actions initiated at a specified future date
- no HLA compliance planned (thus requiring eventual retirement or a waiver)

The DoD Components shall submit periodic updates to these initial reports as required to ensure their accuracy and completeness. DMSO shall establish a mechanism to

provide for formal certification of compliance and shall provide me with periodic reports on the Department's progress towards compliance with the HLA.

If a Component believes it is impractical for a simulation to comply with the HLA, or that HLA-compliance cannot be achieved in a timely manner, it may submit a waiver request to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, the Chair of the EXCIMS. In consultation with the EXCIMS and its Training, Analysis, and Acquisition Councils, I will then decide if an exception to the HLA-compliance requirement is warranted, and if so, the form of that exception.

This mandate for HLA-compliance supersedes all previous requirements for DoD simulations to comply with other simulation standards such as Distributed Interactive Simulation or Aggregate-Level Simulation Protocol. It is expected that new industry standards to support the HLA will emerge. In consultation with the EXCIMS and its

AMG, I will evaluate the suitability of such standards for the Department as they are established.

The DoD point of contact for the HLA is the Defense Modeling and Simulation Office at (703) 998-0660 or [hla@dmsso.mil](mailto:hla@dmsso.mil). The HLA documents are available at <http://www.dmsso.mil/>.

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